

SENATE BILL 312

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2003 Regular Session  
3lr1258  
CF 3lr0992

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By: **Senator Giannetti**

Introduced and read first time: January 31, 2003

Assigned to: Judicial Proceedings

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Committee Report: Favorable

Senate action: Adopted

Read second time: February 20, 2003

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CHAPTER 234

1 AN ACT concerning

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**Estates - Elective Share**

3 FOR the purpose of providing that the net estate and property allocable to an elective  
4 share of a surviving spouse shall be valued in a certain manner; providing that  
5 an elective share includes certain income earned on the net estate during the  
6 period of administration; providing for an adjustment of an elective share based  
7 on a prior distribution to a surviving spouse; altering the period during which a  
8 surviving spouse may make an election for an elective share under certain  
9 circumstances; altering the persons who may make a payment to a surviving  
10 spouse and the method of valuation of certain property if an interest in specific  
11 property is not contributed to the surviving spouse's elective share; defining a  
12 certain term; providing for the application of this Act; and generally relating to  
13 altering certain procedures, valuations, and payments concerning an elective  
14 share of a surviving spouse.

15 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,  
16 Article - Estates and Trusts  
17 Section 3-203, 3-206(a), and 3-208(b)(2)  
18 Annotated Code of Maryland  
19 (2001 Replacement Volume and 2002 Supplement)

20 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF  
21 MARYLAND, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

1

**Article - Estates and Trusts**

2 3-203.

3 (A) IN THIS SECTION, "NET ESTATE" MEANS THE PROPERTY OF THE  
4 DECEDENT PASSING BY TESTATE SUCCESSION, WITHOUT A DEDUCTION FOR STATE  
5 OR FEDERAL ESTATE OR INHERITANCE TAXES, AND REDUCED BY:

- 6 (1) FUNERAL AND ADMINISTRATION EXPENSES;  
7 (2) FAMILY ALLOWANCES; AND  
8 (3) ENFORCEABLE CLAIMS AND DEBTS AGAINST THE ESTATE.

9 [(a)] (B) Instead of property left to [him] THE SURVIVING SPOUSE by will, the  
10 surviving spouse may elect to take a one-third share of the net estate if there is also  
11 a surviving issue, or a one-half share of the net estate if there is no surviving issue.

12 [(b)] (C) The surviving spouse who makes this election may not take more  
13 than a one-half share of the net estate.

14 [(c)] (D) For the purposes of this section, the net estate shall be calculated without  
15 a deduction for the tax as defined in § 7-308 of the Tax - General Article.]

16 (D) FOR THE PURPOSES OF THIS SECTION, THE NET ESTATE AND THE  
17 PROPERTY ALLOCABLE TO A SHARE OF A SURVIVING SPOUSE SHALL BE VALUED AS  
18 OF THE DATE OR DATES OF DISTRIBUTION.

19 (E) (1) FOR THE PURPOSES OF THIS SECTION, A SURVIVING SPOUSE WHO  
20 HAS ELECTED TO TAKE AGAINST A WILL SHALL BE ENTITLED TO THE SURVIVING  
21 SPOUSE'S PORTION OF THE INCOME EARNED ON THE NET ESTATE DURING THE  
22 PERIOD OF ADMINISTRATION BASED ON A ONE-THIRD OR ONE-HALF SHARE,  
23 WHICHEVER IS APPLICABLE.

24 (2) IF ONE OR MORE DISTRIBUTIONS HAVE BEEN MADE TO A SURVIVING  
25 SPOUSE OR ANOTHER PERSON THAT REQUIRE AN ADJUSTMENT IN THE RELATIVE  
26 INTERESTS OF THE BENEFICIARIES, THE APPLICABLE SHARE SHALL BE ADJUSTED.

27 3-206.

28 (a) (1) The election by a surviving spouse to take an elective share shall be  
29 made [not later than seven months after the date of the first appointment of a  
30 personal representative under a will] WITHIN THE LATER OF:

31 (I) NINE MONTHS AFTER THE DATE OF THE DECEDENT'S DEATH;  
32 OR

33 (II) SIX MONTHS AFTER THE FIRST APPOINTMENT OF A PERSONAL  
34 REPRESENTATIVE UNDER A WILL.

1           (2)       The court may extend the time for election, before its expiration, for a  
2 period not to exceed three months at a time, upon notice given to the personal  
3 representative and for good cause shown.

4 3-208.

5       (b)       (2)       Instead of contributing an interest in specific property to the elective  
6 share, a legatee OR LEGATEES, BUT NOT THE PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE, may pay  
7 the surviving spouse in cash, or other property acceptable to the spouse, an amount  
8 equal to the fair market value of the SURVIVING SPOUSE'S interest in specific  
9 property on the [date the election to take an elective share was made by the spouse]  
10 DATE OR DATES OF DISTRIBUTION.

11       SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall be  
12 construed to apply only prospectively and may not be applied or interpreted to have  
13 any effect on or application to an estate of a decedent who dies before the effective  
14 date of this Act.

15       SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect  
16 October 1, 2003.